

Workgroups of the Rhode Island Healthy Eating & Active Living Collaborative

A. Health Care and Health Plans

This group will work on state plan objectives related to policies, programs or environmental changes or supports in the health care system to reduce the prevalence of obesity and associated risk factors, including poor dietary choices, physical inactivity, excessive screen time and formula feeding.

Transitional Chair:

Deborah Durning
Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
Phone: (401) 459-6178
E-mail: ddurning@nhpri.org

A. Worksites

This group will work on state plan objectives related to policies, programs or environmental changes or supports in worksites that support healthy eating and active living.

Transitional Chair:

Annie Connelly
Get Fit RI!
Phone: (401) 874-2759
E-mail: annie@uri.edu

B. Schools and After School Programs

This group will work on state plan objectives related to policies, programs or environmental supports in schools and school-based after-school programs that promote healthy eating and active living.

Transitional Co-Chairs:

Jan Mermin
Coordinated School Health Program
RI Department of Education
Phone: (401) 222-8954
E-mail: Jan.Mermin@ride.ri.gov

Rosemary Reilly-Chammat
Coordinated School Health Program
RI Department of Health
Phone: (401) 222-5922
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C. Early Childhood Settings

This group will work on state plan objectives related to policies, programs or environmental supports that support healthy eating and active living in all settings where preschool children spend time, including homes, home-based child care, licensed child care facilities and preschools.

Transitional Chair:

Barbara Robinson
Hasbro Children's Hospital
Phone: (401) 444-8178
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Emma Berca
Bay Net, Inc., West Bay Community Action Partner
Phone: (401) 623-7524
E-mail: Emma_Berca@Brown.edu

D. Community Based Programs and Resources

This group will work on state plan objectives related to policies, programs and environmental supports that promote healthy eating and active living in community-based organizations including faith-based organizations, community-based after-school programs, senior citizen programs, minority health promotion centers, CAP agencies, YMCA's, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.

Transitional Chair:

Mia Patriarca
Community Partnerships
RI Department of Health
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Workgroups of the Rhode Island Healthy Eating & Active Living Collaborative (continued)

E. Community Access to Physical Activity (Built Environment)

This group will work on state plan objectives related to policies, programs, environmental supports or changes in the built environment that make it easier for people to be physically active. Examples include objectives to create bike paths, trails, sidewalks and safe crosswalks, change zoning ordinances, etc.

Transitional Chair:

Eliza Lawson
Silver Sneakers Program
Axia Health Management
E-mail: ElizaLawson@gmail.com

F. Community Access to Healthy Food (Built Environment)

This group will work on state plan objectives related to policies, programs, environmental supports or changes in the built environment that make it easier for people to purchase and consume healthy foods and beverages. Examples include objectives that increase transportation to healthy food outlets, offer tax incentives to grocery stores to relocate in underserved areas, start farmers' markets, community gardens, etc.

Transitional Chair:

Gemma Gorham
Initiative for a Healthy Weight
RI Department of Health
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E-mail: Gemma_Gorham@Brown.edu

G. Data, Surveillance and Research

This group will work on state plan objectives related to obesity-related data collection, analysis, surveillance and research.

Transitional Chairs:

Jana Hesser
Center for Health, Data & Analysis
RI Department of Health
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Patti Risica
Institute for Community Health Promotion
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Sam Viner-Brown
Data & Evaluation
Division of Family Health
RI Department of Health
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H. Communication/Media

This group will work on communication objectives regarding healthy eating, active living, screen time and breastfeeding including health promotion and social marketing campaigns, creating and disseminating consistent messages, media advocacy, etc.

Transitional Chair:

Margaret Thomas
Strategic Marketing
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I. Breastfeeding

All state plan objectives related to policies, programs or environmental changes to promote and support breastfeeding have been integrated into the workgroups listed above.

In addition, if you are interested in joining the Rhode Island Breastfeeding Coalition, please contact Erin Dugan, RI Breastfeeding Coordinator, at (401) 222-1380 or Erin.Dugan@health.ri.gov